regarded as adequate even for the satisfaction of the needs of the Army. At the present time the Western Front is already experiencing an acute shortage of foodstuffs, as is clear from the telegram of the *Army without* Chief Field Commissary, Lieutenant-*bread* General Egorieff. The position appears to be threatening as so far as A. I. Shingareff is aware, *an adequate quantity of bread for the Army has not yet been prepared;* the distribution undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture has so far given unsatisfactory results—meanwhile in a few weeks the transmission of grain will become impossible in many places. . . .

In A. I* GuchkofPs opinion the Government should take upon itself to supply foodstuffs, not only for the Army but also for the large urban centres and the factories working on defence----------"

" Sitting, 15th February, 1917.

. . . The stocks of grain in the country and the Army were being gradually exhausted. " Upon the Steward of the Household, A. A. Rittich, taking up the administration of Agriculture, i.e. by the middle of November of the past year, an extremely serious situation had arisen. The stocks of bread on all the fronts were alarmingly small : there was bread for a few days. To avoid a catastrophe such a situation demanded the adoption of immediate and decisive measures. . . ."

This testimony does not bear out the theory that Czardom had overcome Russia's worst difficulties, and that the country had emerged into a period of growing efficiency just at the moment when the Czar was